



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MEDIA CONTACT: Kathleen Burke
kathleenmariaburke@yahoo.com
505.255.0103 calls only

October 11, 2022

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO SENDS DELEGATE TO
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

ALBUQUERQUE, NM - For the second consecutive year, the League of Women Voters U.S. will be sending a New Mexico delegate as Official Observer to the United Nations climate change conference known as the Conference of the Parties or the COP, which will take place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt this November. 40,000 plus people from across the globe are expected to attend.

As an official observer organization to the COP, the League of Women Voters US (LWVUS) is allocated a quota of members who may attend. Attending last year in Glasgow, Scotland was Lora Lucero of Albuquerque. Lucero's choice to attend was born of a long-time commitment to environmental activism.

Attending this year's COP27, also a member of the LWVUS delegation, will be Kathleen Burke, a 21-year resident of Albuquerque. Burke will attend as an official observer, as well as to promote the body of research of Santa Fe scientist and author Arthur Firstenberg, whose work focuses on the imminent dangers of microwave radiation to life on Earth. Ms. Burke will carry Mr. Firstenberg's work to the COP, where she expects to spend time both inside at the official

proceedings and outside at protests and demonstrations. Ms. Burke also coordinates Fair Districts for New Mexico, the redistricting reform campaign of the League of Women Voters.

Lucero summed up her experience at the COP26: “Politicians and countries won’t act, can’t act, fast enough to move us off the destructive path we’re on. Business-as-usual, including the strength of the fossil fuel industry and the lack of political imagination will doom our future generations. People must lead --- and force the politicians to catch up with us, pressing leaders to act consistently with the climate reality. Public engagement will tip the scales.” Ms. Lucero’s current focus is working with the Climate Action Team of the LWVUS, preparing recommendations for state and local governments to reduce their fossil fuel emissions.

Destiny Krupnick of Santa Fe will attend COP27 virtually; communicating, promoting and educating the public via her social media accounts.

Per the United Nations website, the COP is “the supreme decision-making body of the UN Convention. All (nation) States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP, at which they review the implementation of the Convention and any other legal instruments that the COP adopts and make decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention, including institutional and administrative arrangements.”

Almost 200 member nations make up the COP, a key task for whom is to review the national communications and emission inventories submitted by Parties (member nations). Based on this information, the COP assesses the effects of the measures taken by Parties and the progress made in achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention.

The COP meets each year, with the first COP meeting held in Berlin, Germany in 1995. This year’s Egyptian location has drawn criticism for a history of human rights abuses in the country.

Founded 102 years ago and focused on voting and political rights for women, the League of Women Voters US was one of the first non-governmental organizations recognized by the UN as an official observer to the Conference of the Parties, which it continues to be today.